

NC ECHO
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"Bronto to Go"
The Flintstones - Fred Flintstone

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Newsletter

From the Project Archivist/Coordinator

Digitization—putting things up on the Internet, providing electronic access to information, sharing your story out there on the World Wide Web—that's what NC ECHO is all about—Exploring Cultural Heritage Online! But digitization is not all there is to it by any stretch of the imagination.

Digitization today is to special collections professionals what cooking was to cavemen in prehistoric times.

Cavemen hunted and gathered things to eat, prepared what they found for eating, and ate it. Then one day some forward thinking person among them decided to put heat to meat and found that it tasted better that way. Cooking became all the rage, and certain truths about it became evident throughout the caveman community. Food still had to be hunted and gathered, brought home, and killed or at least immobilized before it could be eaten or cooked and then eaten. Cooking was an additional step to what the cavemen had already been doing in their food preparation. And, importantly, cooking food improved the cavemen's lives to such an extent that the extra time and work needed for cooking was worth the payoff they got from their extra exertion. Over time it became inconceivable that they would go back to eating only raw food.

Cooking made most food monumentally better. It did not, however, work for every food or work the same for every food.

Digitization is like this. As with cooking, we have found that it does not work for everything and does not work the same way for everything. It also does not replace any of our old activities; it is additional work. However, it is work for which the payoff is so great and which improves our lives so much that it is worth it to us and we cannot imagine going back to a life without online access and information at our fingertips.

Cought up in this technology revolution and the current push to plug in, it may be tempting for us to begin to neglect the physical collections—the real stuff. If we do that, though, the digitization we undertake will ultimately fall well short of any productive goal we had for it. The lazy caveman who figured he would skip a few steps threw a sleeping rabbit into his fire and instead of a delicious roast got an angry, smoldering animal who attacked him and then ran away. Like this lazy caveman, those who try to digitize their stuff before they have intellectual and physical control of it will end up making a stinking mess they cannot use. Scanned images of material with no descrip-

tions or metadata still take a lot of time and money to create and ultimately are useless in the online environment. Great online access to original material that was not properly stored and no longer actually



Renee Dusenbury of Central Carolina Community College scans a document at an NC ECHO Digitization Institute

exists is practically useless as well.

NC ECHO will hold its 8th Digitization Institute in late February/early March 2006. A group of eager librarians will spend a challenging yet fun-filled week learning what they will need to know to run a successful digitization program in their libraries. A core philosophy shared during the institute is that digitization takes the place of nothing special collections professionals have been doing all along since before the first computer entered our lives. Traditional arrangement and description, conservation, and preservation of original material is the foundation upon which any digitization program must be built. To learn more, consult the NC ECHO Digitization Guidelines <http://www.ncecho.org/Guide/toc.htm> or call us at (919) 807-7418.

Kim Cumber

Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide to Describing Cultural Works and Their Images (CCO) is a new manual for the description, documentation, and cataloging of cultural works and the digital surrogates of those works.



Jackie McLaurin, Project Assistant

New Staff Member

Jackie McLaurin joined the NC ECHO staff on August 1, 2005, to help us in the office! Most recently, Jackie was with DCR Administration, and she brings to NC ECHO a wealth of professional experience and diverse personal interests—she is an accomplished pastry chef, a talent highly regarded and much appreciated by the entire NC ECHO staff. We are thrilled to have her on board!

Metadata Matters

It's been a HOT summer in the metadata world (and everywhere else)! New standards were unveiled, old standards were reviewed, and good solid ground-work was laid for the fall. Within NC ECHO, we have seen the release of new tools for NCEAD (http://www.ncecho.org/ncead/tools/tools_home.htm) and started reviewing the NC ECHO Dublin Core Implementation Guidelines. On the national scene, the final draft of *Cataloging Cultural Objects* was distributed online for review and editorial committee members presented at the 2005 annual meetings of the American Association of Museums, the American Library Association, and the Society of American Archivists.

Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide to Describing Cultural Works and Their Images (CCO)

Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO) is a new manual for the description, documentation, and cataloging of cultural works and the digital surrogates of those works. This project was developed by an editorial team of members of the Visual Resources Association (VRA), and received input from an advisory board of experts in the museum, library, and archives communities. The development of the standard was funded by the Digital Library Federation (DLF), the Getty Grant Program, the Andrew W. Mellon Founda-

tion, and others. As part of that cross-community structure, presentations were given at the three annual meetings for our national organizations. CCO brings together subsets from related standard *Categories for the Description of Works of Art (CDWA)* and the VRA Core. In addition, there are maps within CCO to several other metadata standards. The February 2005 complete draft of CCO has been published on the VRA web site at: <http://vraweb.org/CCOweb/index.html> and chapters are available as pdf files. A print edition of CCO will be published by the American Library Association (ALA) in 2006. At some point, this online draft will no longer be available as the print edition appears. There are no plans currently to maintain an online version of the standard.

CCO is designed to address a com-

munity that deals with cultural works and their images. The primary focus of the standard is content, although there is information provided about structuring relational databases in order to maintain that information. CCO works as a complement to other content standards such as *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd edition* or *Describing Archives: a Content Standard*. CCO is focused on the item-level description that is so essential to the community it serves. The primary goals of CCO are to promote good practice in descriptive access, provide shared documentation, and promote access for the end user. The document is comprised of a section on general guidelines, a detailed explanation of the elements, and a section on authorities, in all comprising 482 pages of documentation.

The NCMC Museum metadata working group will begin to review this documentation in the hopes of making it easy for NC ECHO partner institutions to enhance their metadata applications. We will communicate progress and seek input from the larger museum community. If you have any questions about our plans, please email me at: katherine.wisser@duke.edu.

Putting out the call!

As we review the NC ECHO Dublin Core Implementation Guidelines, the NCDC Working Group welcomes any comments on the layout of the guidelines and suggestions on ways to improve their usability for NC ECHO partner institutions. To this end, please send your comments to me at katherine.wisser@duke.edu so that we can recast these guidelines in a more user-friendly way.

Also, please look for me at the NCLA annual conference this month in Winston-Salem (information regarding the conference can be found at: <http://www.nclaonline.org/conference/>). I will be presenting an introduction to the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) on Wednesday from 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm and facilitating a hands-on presentation from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm. If you are interested in the standard, want to see other projects in the state and around the country that have used TEI, this presentation will provide a framework from which to begin your exploration. The first session is intended to inform attendees of a basic outline to TEI, its potential uses and success stories, and provide a forum for question and an-

swers about the standard. The second session provides attendees an opportunity to "try their hand" at analyzing a textual document and consider some of the opportunities and challenges that TEI provides. I hope to see many folks there for lively and exciting sessions!

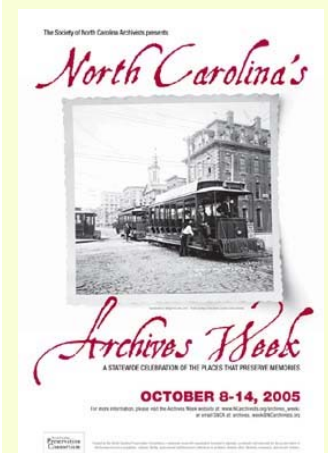
Metadata issues, questions, comments, NEEDS? Contact me at: katherine.wisser@duke.edu.

Archives Week

Archives Week is an annual, week-long observance of the agencies and people responsible for maintaining and making available the archival and historical records of our nation, state, communities and people. The Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA) sponsors the week and serves as an information clearinghouse for events occurring during the week.

This is North Carolina's inaugural year for Archives Week and we are celebrating it the week of October 8-14, 2005. NC ECHO encourages any institution with an archival collection to get involved—celebrate the documentary evidence of our past! For more information, see

http://www.ncarchivists.org/archives_week/



Spotlight

The Lullaby Project Glorieta, NM

The Lullaby Project is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization already responsible for saving hundreds of lullabies from numerous cultures and languages. Recently the principle investigators of the Lullaby Project, Ned Place and Anita Gerlach, visited the North Carolina ECHO offices while on a lullaby collecting trip through the southeast. The pair recorded many lullabies while in North Carolina including sessions with Champa Jarmul of Durham, Peggy Daniels of Durham, and Peggy Patrick of Brasstown.

While with NC ECHO staff archivist, Kim Cumber, they were also fortunate to lunch with her good friend and colleague, Kathy Smith, Assistant University Archivist at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. This fortuitous meeting will yield yet another connection for possible collecting in Tennessee. It is the goal of the Lullaby

Project to collect and record lullabies of every culture represented in North Carolina, as well as in other states. Emphasis is placed on lullabies most likely to disappear, those known only by elders, those of dying languages, and family lullabies, but the project is interested in all lullabies regardless how common.

The Lullaby Project brings professional recording equipment to the sites visited and seeks real caregivers to sing, not professional performers or entertainers. The project is writing grants to collect, digitize, and catalog recorded lullabies already existing in both public and private collections across the country. Singers' interviews and lyrics are being transcribed and the recorded lullabies and interviews digitally recorded on gold CDs for archival purposes. Those who contribute their songs receive a CD of their recording session. Right now, Ned and Anita are working on their first CD for dissemination—an inter-

national collection of lullabies from 20 different cultures from around the world. Following this will be a Native American collection, an Hispanic collection, and an African American CD. These CDs will be given to hospitals who provide long term care to children, hospices, and organizations treating Alzheimer's patients and will be made available to parents who adopt children from outside their culture.

The Lullaby Project wants to record your lullabies and keep these songs alive for future generations. If you are interested in contributing your songs, being a sponsor of the project, obtaining a CD, or have any questions or comments, please visit the Lullaby Project website.

www.thelullabyproject.org

Ned Place and Anita Gerlach
The Lullaby Project

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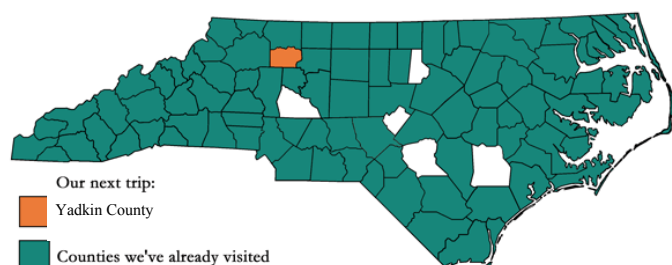


Champa Jarmul of Durham, NC, recording a lullaby during the Lullaby Project's visit to North Carolina



Ned Place, Principle Investigator
The Lullaby Project

The Survey



The light at the end of the tunnel is in sight for the NC ECHO survey of cultural heritage repositories!

Since last June, Kim and I have been on the

road surveying Pitt, Stanly, Stokes, Rockingham, Surry and Alleghany counties (roughly 40 institutions). The counties remaining in the rough order that we will visit

them are Yadkin, Rowan, Cumberland, Lee, Duplin, and Durham. We will complete the survey by December 2005 and begin crunching the numbers and compiling the data in January 2006. A final report of the findings will be published in Fall 2006.

Kim and I and the other NC ECHO staff are appreciative of all the wonderful hospitality shown to us by North Carolina institutions during our visits! We look forward to compiling and sharing the results next fall.

Jackie Dean

Mark Your Calendars

September 12-16, 2005
Digitization Institute VIII
State Library, Raleigh

CANCELLED

due to September 1, 2005, North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management Directive on State Employees' Travel

September 20-23, 2005
NCLA Conference
Winston-Salem

October 6-7, 2005
SNCA Meeting, Wilmington

October 10-14, 2005
Archives Week!
http://www.ncarchivists.org/archives_week/

November 2005
EAD workshops!

See the NC ECHO website for more info
<http://www.ncecho.org>

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Jackie Dean, Project Librarian
Jackie McLaurin, Project Assistant
Katherine M. Wisser, Metadata Coordinator

www.ncecho.org

North Carolina ECHO, *Exploring Cultural Heritage Online*, is the World Wide Web's doorway to the special collections of North Carolina's libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. Supported with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, this innovative project seeks to build a state-wide framework for digitization in order to facilitate comprehensive access to the holdings of North Carolina's cultural institutions.

NC ECHO Project Vision – All of North Carolina's cultural institutions work together to make the state's unique cultural and historical resources accessible for the education and enjoyment of people of all ages in the state, the nation, and the world.

NC ECHO Project Purpose – The NC ECHO portal provides a single point of entry for the citizens of North Carolina to the unique resources of North Carolina's cultural institutions in order to enhance education and learning.

Criteria for Inclusion in the NC ECHO project – Any cultural institution (library, archive, museum, historic site, or organization), which maintains a permanent, non-living collection of unique materials held for research and/or exhibit purposes and open for the use of the public will be surveyed. Denominational/associational collections will be surveyed, but individual church collections will not. Art museums will be surveyed but galleries will not. Zoos, arboreta, and parks will not be surveyed unless as a part of their mission they hold collections as described above.

Through a comprehensive needs assessment and opinion survey, site visits, consultations, workshops, and grant programs, NC ECHO encourages cooperation and collaboration among differing types of cultural institutions and among institutions of varying levels of technological and professional expertise. It is NC ECHO's belief that by working together North Carolina's cultural institutions can achieve greater successes and can do more good than they can by working alone.

NC ECHO Advisory Committee

Chair

Kevin Cherry, Visiting Lecturer, College of Education, Joyner Library, East Carolina University

Members

Robert Busko, Director, Scotland County Memorial Library

Steve Hensen, Director, Planning and Project Development, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University

Lynn Holdzkorn, Assistant Curator, Head of Technical Services, Wilson Library, UNC-CH

Martha Battle Jackson, Curator, North Carolina State Historic Sites, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Hal Keiner, University Archivist, Appalachian State University

Dick Lankford, State Archivist, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Druscie Simpson, Head of Information Technology, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

David A. Smith, Media/Tech Coordinator, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

Gerry Solomon, Assistant Section Chief, Evaluation Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Helen Wykle, Special Collections Librarian, D. H. Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina – Asheville

State Library Staff Members

Grant Pair, Assistant State Librarian for Information Technologies, State Library of North Carolina



Martha Battle Jackson
State Historic Sites